

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NSF/INT;GBDEVEY:RCS
APPROVED BY OES/AMP/BMP:DR. CHAPMAN
NSF/INT;BBARTOCHA
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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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TAGS: OSCI TGEN JO SYRIA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) OFFI-
CIALS TO DAMASCUS, PERIOD 14-16 FEB. 1978.

REF: LETTER K. AUDROUE TO B. BARTOCHA OF DEC. 30, 1977.

1. DR. BOBO BARTOCHA, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS, NSF, AND GILBERT B. DEVEY, HEAD, MIDDLE EAST SEC-
TION, SAME DIVISION, WELCOME OPPORTUNITY VISIT DAMASCUS PER
REF A.

2. TRAVELERS ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF ROYAL SCIEN-
TIFIC SOCIETY (RSS) IN AMMAN, 18-22 FEB. 1978, AND WOULD
LIKE VISIT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE. SUGGEST TWO DAYS
DURING PERIOD 14-16 FEB. CURRENT PLANS HAVE DEVEY ARRIVING
DAMASCUS FROM PARIS 13 FEB. ON AF 140 AT 2055 HOURS.
BARTOCHA SCHEDULED ARRIVE SAME DAY FROM CAIRO ON MS 720 AT
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1725 HOURS. BOTH NOW SCHEDULED DEPART DAMASCUS 16 FEB. ON
RB 261 FOR AMMAN AT 0830 HOURS.

3. TO MINIMIZE TOTAL TRAVEL DAYS TRAVELERS WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE OFFICIAL VISITS TO SYRIAN INSTITUTIONS ON 16 FEB. (IF
THURSDAY IS REGULAR WORK DA)AND TRAVEL TO AMMAN BY CHAUF-
FERED AUTO ON FRIDAY, 17 FEB. IF THURSDAY VISITS ACCEPTABLE

THEN TRAVELERS WOULD ARRIVE DAMASCUS ON 14 FEB. (BARTOCHA FROM CAIRO; DEVEY FROM LONDON). PLEASE ADVISE NSF ON BASIS OF VISITS NOTED IN NEXT PARAGRAPH.

4. NSF SUPPORTS MANY RESEARCH PROJECT IN ARID LAND SCIENCES AND CLOSELY RELATED PROGRAM IN BIO-SALINE RESEARCH WILL BE DESCRIBED AT RSS MEETING IN AMMAN. BARTOCHA AND DEVEY WOULD LIKE DISCUSS SYRIAN INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP ON BIO-SALINE RESEARCH WITH OFFICIALS OF ARAB CENTER FOR STUDIES OF ARID ZONES AND DRY LANDS AND NOTE THAT DR. ISMA'EEL HAMDI BAGORI OF THAT CENTER SCHEDULED ATTEND RSS MEETING. EMB SUGGESTION (REF. A) TO VISIT SUPREME COUNCIL OF SCIENCES MOST WELCOME, AND IS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES FROM CASTARAB-76 MEETING, WHICH DEVEY ATTENDED. DR. MOHAMED SAID AL HAFAR OF UNIV. OF DAMASCUS AND MEMBER OF NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL ALSO PARTICIPATED IN CASTARAB-76. VISITS TO OTHER SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL.

5. TRAVELERS APPRECIATE EMB INTEREST IN ARRANGING THEIR VISIT AND WILL ADJUST ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE DATES AS ADVISED BY EMB. REQUEST HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND AIRPORT PICK-UP AS APPROPRIATE FOR FINAL ITINERARY. VANCE

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